

COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP PLAYS POLITICS WITH THE HOMOSEXUAL ISSUE

October 29, 2000 (David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org) - The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, an organization through which many Southern Baptist congregations channel funds to liberal causes, adopted a middle-of-the-road position on homosexuality at its governing board meeting on October 13. The board described its position as “welcoming but not affirming.” In typical modernistic fashion, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship refused to take a plain position, wanting to appease various factions; and even the moderate position it has taken is ignored in practice. For example, while the CBF cut off support for the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America because of the latter’s support for homosexuality, the CBF still cooperates with this organization “on isolated projects of mutual benefit.”

CBF Coordinator Daniel Vestal admitted that the statement on homosexuality, as weak as it is, is meaningless in practice because, he stated: “I have no interest whatever in excluding or demeaning or minimizing any in this Fellowship who share a different perspective than this document.” He told the press that there are congregations that support the CBF who ordain homosexuals, and that he does not want anyone to leave over this issue (“CBF ‘welcoming but not affirming’ of homosexuals,” Associated Baptist Press, Oct. 23, 2000). CBF council member Dixie Lee Petrey said, “I don’t think we should limit the Spirit of God in the way that it moves. Do we really want to sit here and say God’s Spirit cannot call a homosexual to follow God’s call?” CBF council member Bob Setzer said, “We’re not saying that God cannot call a homosexual, even a practicing homosexual.”

The CBF continues to support liberal schools that affirm homosexuality. These include Wake Forest Divinity School, Texas Christian University, Duke University, and Emory University, all of which have open admission for homosexuals.

It is a great evil to play politics with the truth. The Bible leaves no question about what God thinks about homosexuality. A homosexual can be saved by the grace of Jesus Christ, but he cannot continue in his homosexuality. The true grace of Christ teaches men to turn away from ungodliness.

“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world” (Titus 2:11,12).